

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-20 remain pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration. No art rejection has been applied. Claims 11-17 and 19 have been withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, and 20 have been allowed. Since withdrawn claims 11-17 depend from generic claim 1, applicants submit that the restriction must be withdrawn and the examiner must also allow claims 11-17.

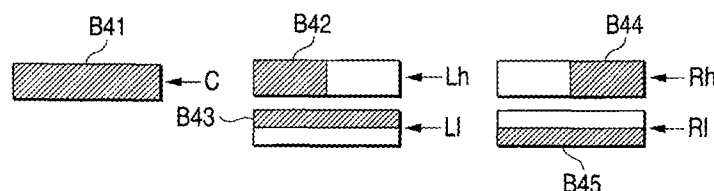
Amendment

Claim 18 has been amended to improve the clarity without narrowing the scope of this claim. Specifically, “the two rows” refer back to --the at least two rows--. For added clarity, claim 18 has been amended to explicitly recite --at least--. No new matter or new consideration has been introduced.

§ 112 Rejection

Claims 8, 10, and 18 now stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1, because the examiner believes that the original specification does not support the limitation “the audio signal processing unit driving [1] a first loudspeaker block composed of less than all of the speaker elements in each of at least two rows among the plurality of stacked horizontal rows of loudspeakers ...[and 2] a second loudspeaker block composed of all of the loudspeaker elements in a single horizontal row.”

Applicants traverse this rejection because at least the embodiments of Figs. 5, 6, 7, and 9 clearly illustrate the embodiment set forth in claim 8. The embodiment of Fig. 6 is reproduced below for convenience.

FIG. 6 (B)

For example, taking the embodiment of Fig. 6, the first loudspeaker block includes upper and lower (two) rows of speakers, as is clearly illustrated in Fig. 6(A). Among the speakers in the upper and lower rows of speakers, only the left half B42 or the right half B44 of the upper and lower rows of speakers are driven with the high frequency range for the respective left or right signal. Similarly, the entire single row (upper row B43 or lower row B45) among the upper and lower rows of speakers is driven. See pages 17-19 of the present specification. In short, Fig. 6 illustrates driving only the left (or right) half of the two rows of speakers with the high frequency range for the left (or right) channel, which clearly shows feature (1) outlined above, and driving the entire one row of speakers with low frequency range for the left (or right) channel, which clearly shows feature (2) outlined above.

Applicants submit that the original specification clearly discloses and illustrates the embodiment set forth in claim 8. Accordingly, the § 112 rejection must be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-5, and 7-20 are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE

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